

## **For Immediate Release**

**April 2, 2008**

The Sevier Valley Substance Abuse Council (SVSAC) and Richfield City are sponsoring a free statewide family substance-abuse conference to be held at the Sevier Valley Center and Richfield and Cedar Ridge High Schools, on Friday and Saturday, April 18 & 19, 2008. Richfield is a 90-minute drive from Provo and is due south of it.

Leanne Geigle, conference coordinator and substance-abuse prevention specialist said, "The Central Utah Substance Abuse Conference is a free family event designed to provide a venue where families and professionals come together to address substance abuse problems found in our homes and communities." The conference theme purposely has double meaning—'kNOw more.' According to Geigle, "We're trying to help parents become more educated and at the same time say 'no more drugs in our communities.'"

A novel approach to increase attendance and to create enthusiasm for families has purposely been used in designing the conference: Educational and recreational events have been created so that youth participate in semi-structured leisure and recreational activities supervised by volunteers. After signing in their children at the Richfield high school, parents are free to attend and choose workshops that last 50-minutes; the formal workshops for adults and recreational activities for children begin at 10 am and finish at 3 pm. This bi-fold format will give parents a chance to attend up to 5-different workshops of their choice while their children play and are being entertained at the high school. Children who sign in will be given a bracelet and name tag for identification purposes; each will be assigned to a similarly-aged group and will rotate through different activities.

Lunch is free for the children who are signed in; it is also free for the parents if they attend two 1-hour workshops before noon. Semi-structured activities are for children ages 6 on up.

There are 24-different types of educational workshops offered to parents and professionals; 12-workshops will be repeated several times during the day. Milo Garcia, Chair of SVSAC and conference director said, "Our conference is for local and distant families who want to be a part of this conference. Each will separate into their respective activities once the children are signed in. Parents will attend workshops and in a few hours the families will reunite. Families will enjoy the games and events together from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. "We encourage families to attend the general assembly in the SVC Theatre at 6 pm. Olene Walker, former governor of Utah and "Miss Utah GI Jill" Stevens are our keynote speakers. They will impart important anti-drug messages...and awards will be given for the winners of the competitions."

After the assembly, there will be a grand celebration and finale and dance entitled, "Get High On Life." The live band "One Brick Shy," will provide live entertainment; on ongoing raffle for prizes will be awarded between songs. The conference ends at 9 PM.

Continuing-education units will be available for professionals who attend the workshops.

All workshops will have Masters-level clinicians facilitating the panel presentations. All workshops will be amplified so that presenters can be clearly heard and understood. To view a concise listing of workshops and recreational events go to SVSACOnline.org. On the website every workshop and event has a phone number listed so that interested parents, volunteers, and professionals can ask questions and receive timely information. The SVC and high schools are all located nearby each other and are within walking distance. Nevertheless, shuttles from the center of the activities to the parking lots will be available. Donations, a list of volunteer needs, and forms on how to register for athletic events and other competitions are found on the SVSACOnline.org website.

Some of the recreational activities for youth include a 3-on-3 “street-ball” varsity high school basketball competition; a high-school tennis and middle-school soccer invitational exhibitions will also be played. Other activities include video gaming competitions, a battle of the bands, sidewalk and poster art, a first-class classic car and custom bike show, a mechanical bull-riding contest, chess tournament, Rubik’s Cube competition, etc. If you want to engage in an activity with a posted deadline, still call to see if you can still participate.

Need general information contact Leanne at 435 896-8236 or Milo at 435 896-5165.

#### **Planned recreational and athletic events are as follows:**

##### **Events beginning on Friday:**

- Utah Statewide High School Varsity Basketball 3-on-3 Invitational Tournament, Boys & Girls Teams. Informal games will be organized in other gymnasiums also.
- High School Tennis Players Invitational Exhibition  
The number-one varsity ranked Boy and Girl from each school participates in an 8-game match exhibition. Matches are predetermined and scheduled depending on participants’ availability. Depending on space and times, others permitted to play also.
- “The Best Youth Anti-Drug Campaign”  
All entries should be post-marked by April 7, 2008\*\*  
Four areas of competition: A) (video) Commercials (30-second; 60-second); B) (video) drama (3-minutes, and 15-minutes); C) graphic-arts (anti-drug logos, themes, banners); D) Literary (1 paragraph, 1 page, and short-story).

The Anti-Drug Campaign competition is classified into 4 age-groups: College, High School, Middle School, and Elementary levels. There are 4 categories of competition: Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, or Combined message)

- Rubik’s Cube Exhibition and Competition: (Contact Mr. Shaver at 435 906-9464)
- Youth & Adult Invitational Chess Tournament (Contact Mr. Shaver at 435 896-9464)

## Saturday Events

- 5-K “Spring Runoff Against Drugs” (meet at the Richfield City Offices 7:30 AM)
- Video Game Competition and Leisure Playing Friday and Saturday  
PS2 and X-Box, Game Cube, Wii, Nintendo for Girls and Boys
- Utah Middle Schools North-vs-South All-Star Soccer Game: Saturday-Football Field  
Saturday 10 AM Girls  
12 Noon Boys
- Role-Model Venue for Boys and Girls: Saturday 10 AM – 3 PM  
Local Royalty & Professional Women  
College Athletes & Professional Men
- Children’s Activities – Inflatable Obstacle Courses, Bounce Houses & Slides,  
Parachute Fun, Face-Painting, and Organized Sports Activities
- Battle of the Bands: Saturday, SVC Arena Floor Warm Up 10 AM – 12 Noon  
Formal competition 12 PM – 4:30 PM
- Car Show: Saturday, Custom Hot Rods, Bikes, Tricked-Out Cars, 10 AM – 3:30 PM
- Mechanical Bull-Riding Contest: Saturday Warm-Ups 10 AM - 3:30 PM  
Final Competition: 3:30-5:30 PM
- General Assembly: Keynote Speakers & Awards Presentation  
Saturday 6-7 PM SVC Theatre  
Miss Utah “GI Jill” Stevens and Olene Walker, First Woman Governor of Utah
- Dance and Raffle for Prizes—All Invited - Saturday - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
SVC Arena Floor  
Featuring central Utah’s hottest band: “One Brick Shy”

**Conference adjourns - 9:00 p.m. All activities are free to the public.**

On Saturday Free Lunch will be served\*

**\*To receive free lunch, children must sign in and participate in semi-structured activities held at the Richfield High School (ages 6-13). Children’s lunch will be served in the Richfield High School cafeteria at 11:50 AM.**

**Adults are required to attend the 10 AM and 11 AM workshops to receive a free lunch; this lunch will be served at 11:50 AM inside the SVC building on the first floor near the workshops area. Adult conference participants are encouraged to attend the *Perspectives* brown-bag workshops from 12:15 to 12:50. Food will also be available for purchase at the 4 Coca-Cola trailers parked between the SVC Center and high schools. Large signs indicating the location of all children and adults activities and workshops will be visible. Conference T-shirts are available.**

**\*if there is trouble meeting the deadlines for registration for competitive events, call Leanne at 896-8236 or Milo at 435 201-1934 to make alternative arrangements.**